

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held March 5, 2013 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning Fire Hall.

Present: Cliff Neal, President  
Bernie Bowser Sr., Vice President  
Nancy Capone  
Michele Cogley  
Paula Henry  
Andrew Sacco, Solicitor

Absent: Ed Morris  
Ken Trudgen  
Bernie Bowser Jr., Mayor

Public Comment:

Patty Colberg (West Avenue) asked where old minutes are stored. Secretary Cowan said she has them contained in binders.

Kerry Gossett (Southern Avenue) said the most current minutes on the website are from November 2012.

Robin Ford (Pleasant View Drive) said the storm sewer behind their business, Ford's Flowers, is in desperate need of repair. She approached Council with several pictures of the effects. She said it prevents them from renting out an adjacent apartment and creates a very dangerous situation on all sides of their building. President Neal said we may run into a Right-of-Way issue but said we would get on it as soon as possible. Vice President Bowser said we are aware of the danger and we will fix it. Both Ms. Ford and her husband, John, said they were more than willing to help out with the Right-of-Way issue and in any other way they could. President Neal asked the Fords the status of their greenhouse with a collapsed roof. Ms. Ford said they recently hired a gentleman who is going to take it down. She said they needed to be able to get equipment in between the structure and the guardrail.

Patty Colberg (West Avenue) said there is a large sink hole forming at the intersection of West Avenue and Taft Street. She said it's very muddy and Vice President Bowser said we will plug it with gravel.

Mike Holly (Butler Road) asked about the Borough installing curbs on Nixon Avenue, directly behind his building. Vice President Bowser said we will construct a blacktop curb when we pave in the spring. Mr. Holly asked if PennDOT said whether or not they'll cut the grass surrounding the new intersection and President Neal said no. Mr. Hawley also asked if there were any new developments on the old service station on Butler Road and President Neal said no.

President Neal called PennDOT to speak about the danger of the car carrier truck parking in the middle of Butler Road to unload. He was told it is a totally legal situation and there is no action we can take. They said some truck drivers do put orange triangular signs on the road to alert oncoming traffic. Mr. Holly said the Borough can pass an ordinance to prohibit this. President Neal said we would look into it and discuss it with PennDOT.

Carol Augustine (Cleveland Street) asked who holds the deed for the property at 123 Cleveland Street. She said there are multiple liens against the property and she wants to make sure the Borough gets its money back. Ms. Augustine asked which of the windows in the old Borough building was new because there was supposedly asbestos in the caulking around the older windows. She asked if we had a copy of the manifest for the asbestos removal and President Neal said yes, it was included in the bid from the contractor. Councilperson Cogley reported that she spoke with the DEP on several occasions and was assured that our demolition was performed according to regulations. Ms. Augustine asked the status of the stolen Bradigan gas card. President Neal said the culprit returned approximately \$300 to the Borough. He said we are not pursuing further prosecution because we got back what we could prove was fraudulently charged.

Jim Sobiski (Southern Avenue) approached Council with copies of 3 invoices he had concerns with. In one instance, the Borough reimbursed Officer Gahagan for the purchase of a paper shredder on which he paid sales tax. A second invoice included a safety award purchased for a Borough employee. Mr. Sobiski said this purchase was not voted on by Council and that the Borough is not permitted to purchase items for employees under our tax-exempt status. President Neal said Council will investigate that purchase. The 3<sup>rd</sup> invoice was for a change in the water infrastructure which, Mr. Sobiski claims, occurred on Borough property and should, therefore, be the responsibility of the West Kittanning Water Authority. Vice President Bowser explained the situation and where the work occurred and assured Mr. Sobiski it was not the responsibility of the water authority.

There was a motion by Councilperson Cogley to approve the previous month's minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Henry. All were in favor and the motion carried, unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor's report was read by President Neal in Mayor Bowser's absence. There was a domestic dispute and a non-reportable traffic accident, both cleared without incident. The police assisted another agency in searching for a suspect who fled after having been arrested for DUI. Police are warning residents there have been several incidents of criminal mischief lately where young, white male offenders, ages 12-20, are trying to get in vehicles late at night. Police have increased patrols at those hours and are asking residents to make sure they lock their vehicles and homes. There were non-traffic arrests in 2 incidents of disorderly conduct and 2 incidents of public drunkenness. There were 10 traffic citations and 8 written warnings issued.

Committee Reports:

President Neal asked for an update on the 2012 audit. Ms. Augustine said they've begun working and are meeting at the fire hall. President Neal asked if Ms. Augustine was housing the records at her house and she said yes. He asked that she let him know when their next meeting would be.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Cogley notified the insurance company that the building has been demolished. She is also going to meet with F&M Bank to review the financial information.

Councilperson Capone reported that trash is beginning to accumulate again at Chuck Rupp's apartment building on Butler Road. She said they had cleaned it up before when they were warned about it by Officer Airgood. President Neal said for the Mayor to instruct the police to warn the tenants again.

New Business:

On a motion by Councilperson Capone, seconded by Vice President Bowser and carried unanimously, approval was given to pay the invoice for Infinity Crane & Excavation.

Councilperson Cogley reported the demolition contractor found "time capsules" of sorts under the floor boards in the old school building. They are mason jars that contain papers and such and are cemented shut. Councilperson Capone contacted the Historical Society to find out how to have them preserved before we put them on display and share them with the public.


President Neal was informed a new sign will be needed for the new building. He said we might possibly solicit input and examples and may ask for bids.

Councilperson Capone asked if and when bricks would be available to the public. Vice President Bowser said those interested could stop at the Borough garage from this Thursday on between 7:00am and 3:00pm.

There was a motion by Vice President Bowser to pay all the bills, excluding the invoice for Infinity Crane & Excavation. Councilperson Capone noted that the invoice for "Chase Heilman, Solicitor" should have been "Chase McClister, Solicitor". There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Henry. All were in favor and the motion carried, unanimously.

On a motion by Councilperson Henry, seconded by Councilperson Capone and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carly Cowan

Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO

West Kittanning Borough